

(1) *districts with maintenance and operations tax rates at least equal to the state maximum compressed tax rate, as defined by Section 42.101(a), and lowest amounts of maintenance and operations tax revenue per weighted student; and*

(2) *districts with debt service tax rates near or equal to the greatest rates permitted by law.*

(c) *The commissioner may adopt rules to implement and administer this section.*

SECTION 4. (a) Subject to the availability of funds, the commissioner of education shall distribute grant funds in accordance with Section 42.2528, Education Code, as added by this Act, beginning with the 2015–2016 school year.

(b) The change in law made by Section 29.022, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2016–2017 school year.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed the Senate on May 11, 2015: Yeas 24, Nays 7; May 28, 2015, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 29, 2015, House granted request of the Senate; May 31, 2015, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 10; passed the House, with amendments, on May 27, 2015: Yeas 132, Nays 12, two present not voting; May 29, 2015, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 31, 2015, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, three present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2015.

Effective June 19, 2015.

## SUNSET REVIEW OF RIVER AUTHORITIES

### CHAPTER 1148

S.B. No. 523

#### AN ACT

**relating to the sunset review of river authorities.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. SUNSET ACT. Chapter 325, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 325.025 to read as follows:

*Sec. 325.025. RIVER AUTHORITIES SUBJECT TO REVIEW. (a) A river authority listed in Subsection (b) is subject to a limited review under this chapter as if it were a state agency but may not be abolished.*

*(b) This section applies to the:*

- (1) Angelina and Neches River Authority;*
- (2) Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District;*
- (3) Brazos River Authority;*
- (4) Central Colorado River Authority;*
- (5) Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority;*
- (6) Lavaca-Navidad River Authority;*
- (7) Lower Colorado River Authority;*
- (8) Lower Neches Valley Authority;*

- (9) *Nueces River Authority;*
  - (10) *Palo Duro River Authority of Texas;*
  - (11) *Red River Authority of Texas;*
  - (12) *Sabine River Authority of Texas;*
  - (13) *San Antonio River Authority;*
  - (14) *San Jacinto River Authority;*
  - (15) *Sulphur River Basin Authority;*
  - (16) *Trinity River Authority of Texas;*
  - (17) *Upper Colorado River Authority; and*
  - (18) *Upper Guadalupe River Authority.*
- (c) *The limited review under this chapter must assess each river authority's:*
- (1) *governance;*
  - (2) *management;*
  - (3) *operating structure; and*
  - (4) *compliance with legislative requirements.*

(d) *A river authority shall pay the cost incurred by the commission in performing a review of the authority under this section. The commission shall determine the cost, and the authority shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the commission detailing the cost.*

(e) *A river authority reviewed by the commission under this section may not be required to conduct a management audit under Chapter 292, Title 30, Texas Administrative Code.*

**SECTION 2. ANGELINA AND NECHES RIVER AUTHORITY.** Subchapter A, Chapter 8501, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Section 8501.0015 to read as follows:

*Sec. 8501.0015. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT. (a) The authority is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the authority were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2023, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The authority shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the authority shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

**SECTION 3. BANDERA COUNTY RIVER AUTHORITY AND GROUNDWATER DISTRICT.** Chapter 629, Acts of the 62nd Legislature, Regular Session, 1971, is amended by adding Section 1A to read as follows:

*Sec. 1A. (a) The district is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the district were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2023, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The district shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the district shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

**SECTION 4. CENTRAL COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY.** Subchapter A, Chapter 8505, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Section 8505.0021 to read as follows:

*Sec. 8505.0021. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT. (a) The authority is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished*

*under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the authority were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2017, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The authority shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the authority shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

**SECTION 5. GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY.** Chapter 75, Acts of the 43rd Legislature, 1st Called Session, 1933, is amended by adding Section 1A to read as follows:

*Sec. 1A. (a) The District is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the District were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2019, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The District shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the District shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

**SECTION 6. LAVACA-NAVIDAD RIVER AUTHORITY.** Chapter 186, Acts of the 50th Legislature, Regular Session, 1947, is amended by adding Section 1A to read as follows:

*Sec. 1A. (a) The District is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the District were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2023, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The District shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the District shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

**SECTION 7. LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY.** Chapter 8503, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Section 8503.0021 to read as follows:

*Sec. 8503.0021. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT. (a) The authority is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall not include the management of the generation or transmission of electricity under the wholesale electricity operation of the authority and the authority's affiliated nonprofit corporations. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the authority were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2019, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) In anticipation of the sunset review under Subsection (a), based on the results of an audit, including a performance-related audit, conducted by the state auditor before December 1, 2016, the state auditor may make recommendations to the legislature, including whether a review conducted under Subsection (a) should include the financial operation and management of the generation or transmission of electricity under the wholesale electricity operation of the authority and the authority's affiliated nonprofit corporations.*

*(c) The authority shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review under Subsection (a). The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the authority shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

**SECTION 8. LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY.** Section 8503.015, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended to read as follows:

*Sec. 8503.015. AUDITS [AUDIT]. (a) The authority is subject to the audit provisions of Subchapter G, Chapter 49, Water Code.*

*(b) The authority is subject to the audit provisions of Chapter 321, Government Code. This subsection expires January 1, 2017.*

SECTION 9. LOWER NECHES VALLEY AUTHORITY. Subchapter A, Chapter 8504, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Section 8504.0021 to read as follows:

*Sec. 8504.0021. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT. (a) The authority is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the authority were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2021, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The authority shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the authority shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

SECTION 10. NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY. Chapter 427, Acts of the 44th Legislature, 1st Called Session, 1935, is amended by adding Section 1.02A to read as follows:

*Sec. 1.02A. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT. (a) The authority is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the authority were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2019, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The authority shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the authority shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

SECTION 11. PALO DURO RIVER AUTHORITY OF TEXAS. Chapter 438, Acts of the 63rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1973, is amended by adding Section 1A to read as follows:

*Sec. 1A. (a) The Authority is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the Authority were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2017, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The Authority shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the Authority shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

SECTION 12. RED RIVER AUTHORITY OF TEXAS. Chapter 279, Acts of the 56th Legislature, Regular Session, 1959, is amended by adding Section 1A to read as follows:

*Sec. 1A. (a) The Authority is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the Authority were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2019, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The Authority shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the Authority shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

SECTION 13. SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY OF TEXAS. Chapter 110, Acts of the 51st Legislature, Regular Session, 1949, is amended by adding Section 2A to read as follows:

*Sec. 2A. (a) The district is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the district were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2021, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The district shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in*

*performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the district shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

SECTION 14. BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY. Chapter 8502, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Section 8502.0021 to read as follows:

*Sec. 8502.0021. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT. (a) The authority is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the authority were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2021, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The authority shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the authority shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

SECTION 15. SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY. Chapter 276, Acts of the 45th Legislature, Regular Session, 1937, is amended by adding Section 1-a to read as follows:

*Sec. 1-a. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT. (a) The District is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the District were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2023, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The District shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the District shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

SECTION 16. SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY. Chapter 426, Acts of the 45th Legislature, Regular Session, 1937, is amended by adding Section 1A to read as follows:

*Sec. 1A. (a) The District is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the District were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2021, and every 12th year after that year.*

*(b) The District shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the District shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.*

SECTION 17. SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY. Sections 1A(a) and (c), Chapter 3, Acts of the 69th Legislature, 1st Called Session, 1985, are amended to read as follows:

*(a) The authority is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter [as if it were a state agency]. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the authority were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2017, and every 12th year after that year [Unless the authority is continued in existence, the authority is abolished and this Act expires September 1, 2017].*

*(c) The authority shall pay the costs incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the [a] review [of the authority under this section]. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the costs, and the authority shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the costs.*

SECTION 18. TRINITY RIVER AUTHORITY OF TEXAS. Chapter 518, Acts of the 54th Legislature, Regular Session, 1955, is amended by adding Section 1A to read as follows:

*Sec. 1A. (a) The Authority is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be*

conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the Authority were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2023, and every 12th year after that year.

(b) The Authority shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the Authority shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.

SECTION 19. UPPER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY. Chapter 126, General Laws, Acts of the 44th Legislature, Regular Session, 1935, is amended by adding Section 1A to read as follows:

Sec. 1A. (a) The District is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the District were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2017, and every 12th year after that year.

(b) The District shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the District shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.

SECTION 20. UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY. Chapter 5, page 1062, Special Laws, Acts of the 46th Legislature, Regular Session, 1939, is amended by adding Section 1A to read as follows:

Sec. 1A. (a) The District is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the District were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2021, and every 12th year after that year.

(b) The District shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the District shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.

SECTION 21. REPEALER. Sections 1A(b) and (d), Chapter 3, Acts of the 69th Legislature, 1st Called Session, 1985, are repealed.

SECTION 22. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed the Senate on April 9, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0; May 27, 2015, Senate refused to concur in House amendment and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 28, 2015, House granted request of the Senate; May 30, 2015, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House, with amendment, on May 23, 2015: Yeas 139, Nays 1, two present not voting; May 28, 2015, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 31, 2015, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 2, two present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2015.

Effective June 19, 2015.